

M6 junctions 13 to 15 smart motorway scheme

February 2019 newsletter



Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter about the work we're doing to upgrade the M6 between junctions 13 and 15 to a smart motorway.

We hope you have all settled into 2019 and are looking forward to the year ahead.

Why is the work needed?

The M6 between junctions 13 and 15 is one of the busiest sections of road in the UK. It is used by over 127,000 vehicles each day and suffers from heavy congestion and unpredictable journey times, especially during peak periods. Congestion on this stretch of motorway also impacts local roads. The scheme will reduce congestion, remove major bottlenecks and improve journey time reliability, which will help businesses in the area.

An update on our work

We have completed some major construction milestones, including the successful demolition of Creswell Home Farm overbridge.

We have now finished work to install a new concrete safety barrier and improved the drainage system in the central reservation on the 6 mile stretch from junction 15 down to Yarnfield Lane overbridge. We have also constructed a small welfare and storage area at this location.

Work continues to upgrade bridge parapets on Norton, Creswell and Dunston rail bridges, which will be complete by the end of 2019. We are also installing strengthened safety barriers on bridges at junctions 13 and 14.

The next phase of work will begin from February onwards and will involve working in the northbound verge between Yarnfield Lane overbridge and junction 15. Some of the main verge work includes preparing the hard shoulder to be converted into a running lane and installing the gantries, which will house the new signs and signals.

This phase will see the introduction of a contraflow at this location.

What is a contraflow and how will it benefit you?

A contraflow is a temporary arrangement where traffic is transferred from its usual side to share the other half of the carriageway with traffic moving in the opposite direction. This layout will provide a wider working space in the verge, allowing our teams to safely speed up certain construction activities.

A contraflow will reduce the amount of overnight closures we need by around 60%. This will benefit road users and residents living on diversion routes through Stafford.

A typical smart motorway scheme will require approximately 200 full motorway closures to complete construction activities using narrow lanes. However, by using a contraflow arrangement, we are able to reduce the number of full closures to an average of 60. This is because contraflow allows us to carry out larger activities that are normally carried out overnight, during the day.

Contraflow is safer for our road workers too

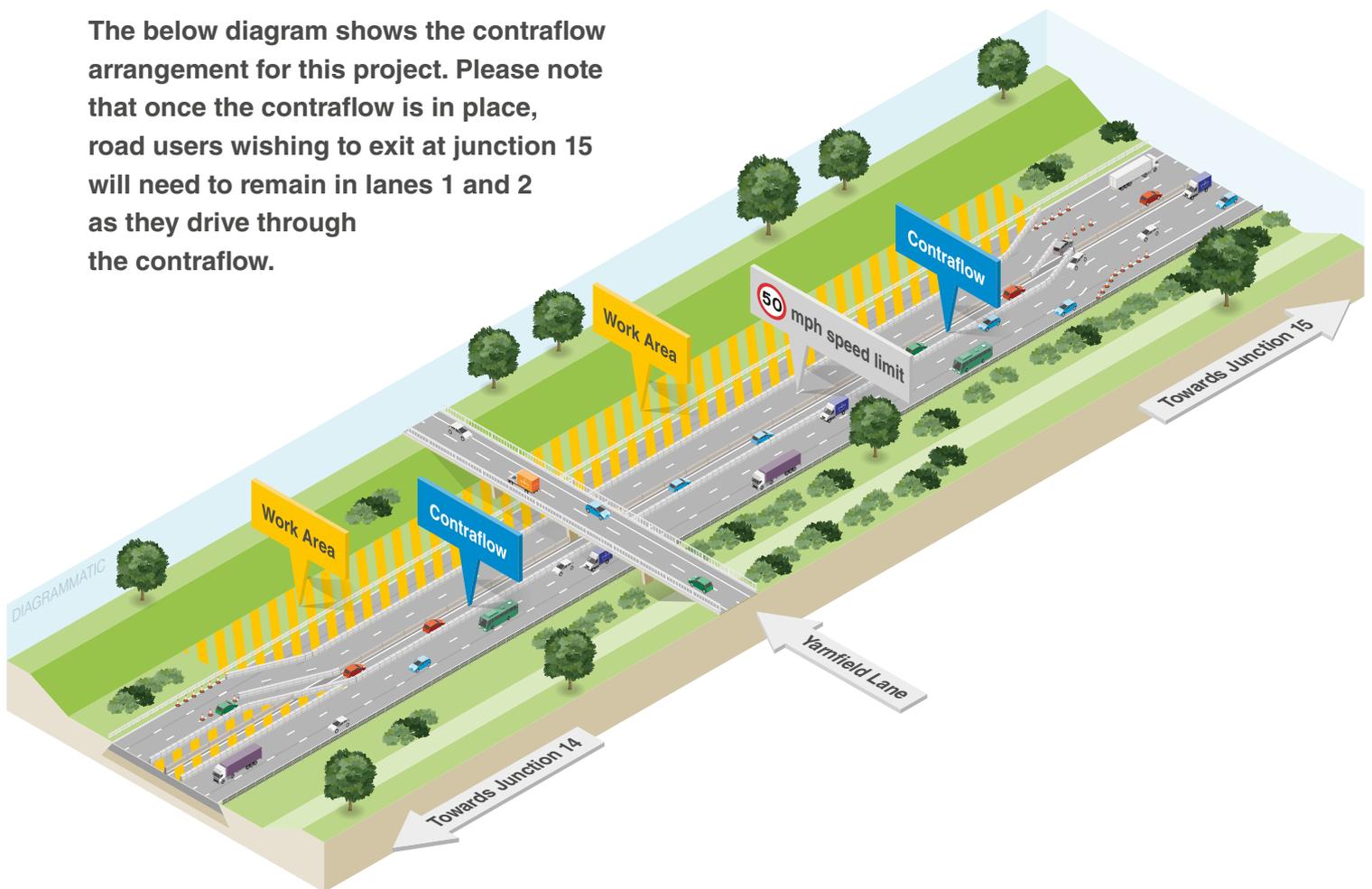
As there is more space in the verge to work, site vehicles will be able to pass each other without having to wait until another team has finished an activity.

As there will be less traffic management to install overnight, this gives us a greater working window to complete the project quicker and more safely than traditional ways of working.

Central reservation works taking place



The below diagram shows the contraflow arrangement for this project. Please note that once the contraflow is in place, road users wishing to exit at junction 15 will need to remain in lanes 1 and 2 as they drive through the contraflow.



Burton Bank footbridge demolition

Following the successful demolition of Creswell Home Farm bridge in September last year, we will now be demolishing Burton Bank footbridge between junctions 13 and 14. Currently, there isn't enough headroom for heavy goods vehicles between the hard shoulder and existing footbridge to allow for all lane running. We need to demolish the footbridge to create the additional headroom required.

The bridge demolition is scheduled to take place overnight from **Saturday 23 March to Sunday 24 March 2019**. We will need to close 2 lanes in each direction of the M6 between junctions 13 and 14 from 5pm Saturday 23 March before completely closing the motorway at 8pm.

The demolition could take up to 18 hours however we are hoping to reopen the motorway sooner than this.

We will be advertising the closure on electronic variable message signs on the motorway network, from as far as Dover to Carlisle. We will be using these to warn drivers to expect delays on the M6 and advising that they avoid the area and use alternative routes where possible.

We would like to thank motorists and residents in advance for their patience during this work. The bridge weighs 143 tonnes and we will demolish it using two large machines that will munch through the structure. We will put a large safety mat over the carriageway to prevent any damage to the road surface during the demolition. We will take any debris off-site straight away to a nearby compound, reducing the time needed for the motorway closure and the use of site vehicles on local roads.

Please visit [@HighwaysWMIDS](#) on Twitter for live updates during the demolition weekend.

Burton Bank footbridge



Diversion route

During the closure we will use the following diversion route:

Northbound

- Leave the M6 at junction 13 and join the A449 northbound
- Follow the A449 to the A34
- Follow the A34 to re-join the M6 at junction 14

Southbound

- Leave the M6 at junction 14 and join the A34
- Follow the A34 southbound to the A449
- Follow the A449 to re-join the M6 at junction 13

Map of the diversion route on the M6 junction 13 to 15



* Cannock Chase (AONB) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Come and visit us

If you have any questions about the contraflow, bridge demolition or the scheme in general, we will be outside:

Asda Stafford Superstore
Queensway, Stafford, ST16 3TA.

Friday 15 March from 10am to 4pm.

We hope to see you there.

Engagement vehicle



50mph speed limit in place



M6 junctions 16 to 19 project update

The smart motorway is now fully operational between junction 18 (Holmes Chapel) and junction 19 (Knutsford). Motorists are now able to use all 4 new lanes on both northbound and southbound carriageways and travel at speeds of up to 70mph. New overhead electronic signs have been switched on to provide drivers with live information about their journeys, including changes in the speed limit, lane closures and incidents ahead.

A temporary 50mph speed limit will remain in place between junctions 16 and 18 until the construction and technology work is completed and the whole project opens to traffic at the end of March. Once complete, this scheme will improve journeys for the 120,000 drivers who use that stretch of the M6 every day. For further information about this scheme, please visit:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m6j16to19

The neighbouring project



Central reservation works



Out in the local community

House of Bread

Before the Christmas break, we visited House of Bread a Staffordshire charity, and delivered a Christmas hamper of food and small item donations to the value of approximately £1000, and to present a cheque for £750.

House of Bread is an organisation that offers a home-cooked meal for vulnerable and homeless people in the local area.

Throughout each week, the charity holds activities and drop-in sessions providing food, friendship, support and advice to those who need it most.

Employees working for House of Bread were expecting the hamper delivery alone, only to be surprised on the day by our donation too. Items in the hamper included tins, dry food packets, toiletries, tea, coffee, chocolates and mince pies for festive cheer.

William Morris, House of Bread Director said, "We genuinely can't believe that we received some money alongside the generous hamper. We weren't expecting it at all. What a fabulous Christmas gift.

Here at House of Bread we try to make the invisible visible and the money and donations will go some way to helping our vulnerable friends have a better Christmas and beyond."

Staff at House of Bread, Staffordshire



House of Bread, Staffordshire



Contact us

If you have any questions or would like to know more about this work, please email:

M6.j13-15@highwaysengland.co.uk or call us on **0300 123 5000**.

If you wish to be sent our weekly Traffic Management Bulletin, which details all planned closures for smart motorway work on the M6 between junctions 2 and 19, please email: **M6J13-15@kier.co.uk**

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

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